

## Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6316

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FOR EUR/NE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, BGEN, BE

SUBJECT: BELGIAN INVESTIGATION INTO CHARGES OF LOCKHEED BRIBERY

REF: SHIRLEY TELECON TO EMBASSY MARCH 12

1. IN LOWER HOUSE OF BELGIAN PARLIAMENT MARCH 9, PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS, IN RESPONSE TO INTERPOLATION BY FDF DEPUTY HAVELANGE, STATED BELGIAN GOVERNMENT POSITION ON RECENT CHARGES THAT LOCKHEED AIRCRAFT CORPORATION HAD DISTRIBUTED DOLS 16 MILLION TO INDIVIDUALS IN VARIOUS NATO COUNTRIES, INCLUDING BELGIUM. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY'S UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF PRIME MINISTER'S RESPONSE:

"THE REVELATIONS FROM A FOREIGN SOURCE CONCERNING THE LOCKHEED AFFAIR TO WHICH THE HONORABLE MEMBER HAS MADE ALLUSION ARE, DESPITE THEIR GRAVITY, RATHER IMPRECISE.

"THE FACTS INCRIMINATING CERTAIN PERSONALITIES SEEM TO DERIVE FROM A DECLARATION WHICH AN OFFICIAL OF THE LOCKHEED AIRCRAFT CORPORATION MADE TO A NEWSPAPER IN THE UNITED STATES. THIS PERSON UP UNTIL 1964, THAT IS TO SAY MORE THAN 10 YEARS AGO, WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE HANDED OUT IMPORTANT BRIBES TO CITIZENS OF MEMBER

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COUNTRIES OF NATO, INCLUDING BELGIUM.

"NO DETAILS WERE GIVEN ON THE INDIVIDUALS ACCUSED, ON THE POSITIONS OF THESE INDIVIDUALS, ON THE AMOUNT SPENT, NOR ON THE ACTUAL CIRCUMSTANCES BUT, FROM THE DATES SUGGESTED, IT SHOULD CONCERN THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH RESULTED IN THE PURCHASE OF THE STARFIGHTER.

"THIS REVELATION, IF IT IS WELL FOUNDED, COULD SUGGEST THAT THERE IS A QUESTION HERE OF FRAUD COVERED UNDER ARTICLE 35, PARAGRAPH 2, OF THE ROYAL DECREE OF JULY 29, 1970.

"THE GOVERNMENT HAS REQUESTED THE HIGH COMMITTEE OF CONTROL ("COMITE SUPERIEUR DE CONTROLE") TO OPEN AN INQUIRY.

"IN THE EVENT THAT THE HONORABLE MEMBER HAS AT HIS DISPOSAL SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS MATTER, I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF HE WOULD TRANSMIT IT TO THIS COMMITTEE."

2. THE HIGH COMMITTEE OF CONTROL IS A SEMI-AUTONOMOUS INVESTIGATIVE BODY WITHIN THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER. ITS INVESTIGATIVE POWERS EXTEND THROUGHOUT ALL MINISTRIES AND EVEN INTO PUBLICLY OWNED BODIES. THE COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF INSPECTION CORPS HEADED BY COMMISSION OF OFFICIALS. SOME OF THESE INSPECTORS HAVE POWER TO ACT AS JUDICIAL POLICE IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THEIR INQUIRES. PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY OF COMMITTEE, HOWEVER, IS TO SURVEY GOVERNMENT BIDS, PARTICULARLY IN FIELD OF PUBLIC WORKS.

3. OFFICIAL IN OFFICE OF PRIME MINISTER INDICATED INQUIRY BY HIGH COMMITTEE WAS OPENED ON DIRECT ORDERS FROM PRIME MINISTER.

4. ARTICLE 35, PARA 2, OF ROYAL DECREE OF JULY 29, 1970, TO WHICH PRIME MINISTER REFERRED, SETS FORTH AUTHORITY OF HIGH COMMITTEE OF CONTROL TO UNDERTAKE INVESTIGATIONS INTO FRAUD AND OTHER INFRACTIONS OF THE LAW.  
FRIESTONE

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## Message Attributes

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